

Willits Weekly

A Nostalgic & Modern Record of Community and Life in Willits

Donations Accepted Edition No. 407

Thursday, June 17, 2021

Board discusses firehouse grand opening plans

Joanne Moore
Reporter
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Topics of interest at the June 8 meeting of the Little Lake Fire Protection District Board of Directors included several items.

A September 11 grand opening celebration for the new firehouse is taking shape; there's a problem that's a "biggie" with some street names on Pine Mountain; beginning at the end of July new projects proposed to be built in Willits will pay a fee to the

Read the rest of **LLFD**
Over on Page 13

Newsom lifts stay-at-home order, retires tier system

By the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom, Sacramento

SACRAMENTO – Governor Gavin Newsom took action Friday to lift pandemic executive orders as the state moves "Beyond the Blueprint" to fully, safely reopen. That includes terminating the Stay-at-Home Order that was implemented early in the pandemic to protect Californians and retiring the Blueprint for a Safer Economy.

Effective Tuesday, June 15, restrictions such as physical distancing, capacity limits and the county tier system have ended. For more info: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/up->

Read the rest of **Beyond**
Over on Page 15

COMMET busts in Laytonville, Covelo

by Capt. Gregory L. Van Patten, for MCSO

From June 4 to June 9, the County of Mendocino Marijuana Enforcement Team conducted several enforcement operations in the areas of Laytonville, Covelo and Albion in Mendocino County.

The following enforcement operations will be referred to the Mendocino County District Attorney's Office for possible prosecution after the completion of each independent investigation.

Read the rest of **Busts**
Over on Page 13



Above, from left: With passes finally in hand, the Maciel sisters are ready for fun at the Willits Frontier Days carnival. No stop into J.D. Redhouse is complete without one (or two!) scoops of ice cream: Sephora, 7, enjoyed mint chip, dad Michael Maciel enjoyed a double scoop of chocolate ("Make it a double, it IS almost Father's Day!" he laughed), and DaisyLynn, 4, enjoyed a scoop of vanilla.



Photos by
Maureen
Jennison

Above: Michael Maciel celebrates a little pre-Father's Day fun with his girls, Sephora, left and DaisyLynn, at J.D. Redhouse, purchasing tickets to the upcoming carnival and pre-dinner ice cream.

Tickets & Treats

Willits Frontier Days carnival ride day passes now available for presale at J.D. Redhouse

This year seems to be filled with excitement for everything that brings a hint of normalcy back to our lives, but folks appear to be especially excited for the upcoming Willits Frontier Days carnival, which yes, is happening this year!

Maureen Jennison
Graphics & Photographress
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The carnival will open on Friday, June 25 and run through July 4 at the old ballfields next to the rodeo grounds on East Commercial Street. Presale day-pass tickets are available now at J.D. Redhouse for \$30 each (or available at a higher cost at the gate!) – they include unlimited rides and are needed for riders of all ages. Cash sales only at J.D. Redhouse.

The Maciel family took full advantage of a stop at J.D. Redhouse to purchase their tickets Tuesday, and look forward to keeping the tradition of fun at the carnival this year.

"Their dad always takes them, it's tradition!" said wife

Read the rest of **Carnival**
Over on Page 11

At right, above: The Maciel family, including parents Amanda and Michael, smile with their carnival-ready daughters Sephora, left, and DaisyLynn, right, in front of J.D. Redhouse. At right: J.D. Redhouse's Hannah Willoughby, right, hands carnival tickets to the excited Maciel sisters.



Photos by
Mathew
Caine

Above: Martin Coughlin decided it was best to stay warm and dry during the procession. Below: McKenna McNelley and Emma Crowe shared a red Jeep in the rain.



Grads on Main

After-graduation procession through town held to celebrate 2021 graduates

Read the whole story
on Page 10

Drought task force kicks off

Jennifer Poole
Editor & Reporter
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Third District Supervisor John Haschak reported at the first meeting of the Mendocino Countywide Drought Task Force on June 10, that water availability in Brooktrails and the Willits water district at present "looks good – relatively speaking."

The Willits area, like much of Mendocino County, is listed as being in "extreme drought" on the U.S. Drought Monitor map, but water availability for human use differs significantly in different areas of the county.

Read the rest of **Drought**
Over on Page 15

Brooktrails board OKs usage-based water rate increase

Barbara O'Reardon
Reporter
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The June 8 Brooktrails Township Board of Directors meeting via Zoom began with President Rick Williams opening a public hearing regarding the first agenda item to be considered: Resolution 2021-07 Volumetric Water Rate Increase Effective July 1, 2021.

Brooktrails resident Rose Macy, who lives on Goose Road, spoke of her concern regarding the rate increase. Noting that the increase was "not much of an increase," she stated that "Brooktrails is rather

Read the rest of **Increase**
Over on Page 13

Public Health notes positive cases among staff at county businesses

Submitted by Mendocino County Public Health

As of June 14, Ellie's Mutt Hut restaurant at 732 South State Street in Ukiah has been confirmed to have one positive COVID-19 case among their staff. Therefore, members of the public and restaurant staff who are not fully vaccinated and who were at Ellie's Mutt Hut between the dates of June 10 to 11, 2021, are asked to get tested and closely monitor for symptoms of COVID-19.

This staff member also attended a graduation party

Read the rest of **Cases**
Over on Page 4

Willits Senior Center Indoor Lunch

The indoor dining room has reopened as of June 15 for fully vaccinated diners, at least two weeks after their final shot, or those with proof of a negative COVID-19 test in the last 72 hours. The official Grand Opening is set for Thursday, July 1. New hours: from 11:45 am to 1 pm, Monday through Friday. Indoor meals still \$5 through June. Please bring vaccination card or proof of a COVID test in the last 72 hours.

Volunteers Wanted

Willits Senior Center is seeking volunteers who are vaccinated to come help serve at the Senior Center lunch. Dining room volunteers are welcome anytime Monday through Friday, 11:30 am to 1 pm. Call Volunteer Coordinator Deb Holcomb at 459-6826 if interested or for more info.

Drive-Thru & Walk-Up Meals

The Willits Senior Center will continue to provide drive-thru and walk-up meals, from 12 to 12:30 pm, outside the Senior Center, 1501 Baechtel Road, even after the dining room reopens. Prices for drive-thru and walk-up to go lunches will remain at \$5 through June, thanks to funding from the Community Foundation and Sparetime Supply (thanks to Mike Griggs, Sr. and Andrew Hosford).

Home Meal Delivery

The Senior Center Meals on Wheels delivered meals are \$5.50 per meal. Call 459-6826 the day before needed to schedule home meal delivery: Monday through Friday. Delivered throughout Willits.

Thursday, June 17: Pasta Carbonara, Veggie, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Friday, June 18: Ortega Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Veggie, Roll

Monday, June 21: Ground Beef Mexican Tacos, Rice and Beans

Tuesday, June 22: Chicken Broccoli Casserole w/Hollandaise Sauce, Garlic Bread, Green Salad

Wednesday, June 23: BLT, Mac Salad, Pickle

Thursday, June 24: Grilled Chicken, Mashed Potato w/Gravy, Veggie, Roll, Green Salad

Friday, June 25: Turkey w/Stuffing, Veggie, Roll, Cranberry Sauce

Transportation for seniors: Call 459-5556 to schedule. Pick up and drop off for grocery shopping, banking, doctors' appointments.

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Public Notice: Mendocino County Face Covering Order Guidance

By Mendocino County Public Health

The risk for COVID-19 exposures and infections will remain in California beyond June 15, and the continued use of face coverings helps prevent COVID-19 transmission. California's updated Face Coverings Guidance is summarized below. The purpose of this guidance is to protect those members of our community who are still vulnerable (those who are not vaccinated, children less than 12 years old, and those who are immunocompromised). For those people, wearing a face covering properly protects themselves and others, particularly in indoor settings.

Current orders for Mendocino County follow the state guidelines:

Everyone must wear face coverings in the following settings:

- On public transit and in transit hubs
- In hospitals
- In nursing homes and long-term care facilities
- In homeless shelters, emergency shelters, and cooling centers
- Indoors in K-12 schools, childcare, and other youth settings

Unvaccinated individuals are required to wear face coverings in indoor public settings and businesses such as retail, restaurants, theaters, meetings, and

state and local government offices serving the public.

Fully vaccinated people do not need to wear face coverings in these settings. Any business may still require face coverings if they choose.

Business owners/operators and venue operators have three choices to comply with this order, and they should post whichever method they use:

- Require everyone to wear face coverings
- Allow vaccinated people to self-attest that they are vaccinated
- Use a method of verification for vaccinated people such as showing their vaccine card, a photo-copy or digital proof

No person can be prevented from wearing a face covering. People who are exempt from wearing face coverings include:

- children less than 2 years old
- people who have a medical or mental health condition or disability
- others (including hearing impaired) for whom a mask would cause an increased risk

In workplaces, employers are subject to Cal/OSHA COVID-19 standards, and should consult those regulations for additional requirements.

What do YOU think?

Opinions, thoughts and thank you letters from our readers

Thanks from Noyo Theatre

To the Editor:

We would like to thank our friends and neighbors for their thoughtfulness and support during our struggle to reopen our doors to the public.

This has been a difficult, if not devastating time for most of us. Many businesses will never recover. It will be a long time before people feel comfortable enjoying the simple pleasure of each other's company in groups again.

But so many of you have come together to ensure that a small hometown movie theater would continue to exist. Thank you for helping us to meet our fundraising goals. Our gofundme account and in-person contributions raised over \$40,000 ... enough to replace our projector and other equipment that failed during the past year.

We have now been awarded the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant which will provide enough funding to

make much-needed repairs and improvements to our 81-year-old cinema and keep it running for years to come.

This is truly your movie theater, Willits. We can't wait to see you back at the movies!

Lois and Jeff Hoover, owners, Noyo Theatre

Food bank vandalized

To the Editor:

The Willits Food Bank has been vandalized twice in the past week by late-night graffiti "taggers." The massive recently painted cinderblock wall may have looked like an inviting canvas, but it was and is not.

The building outside was painted last year as part of an overall upgrade that added to the quality of the food bank.

The first vandalism was scrubbed off by a kind neighbor, and painted over by Dave Kline. Thanks to both for their generosity.

The second dirty deed required primer, because the vandals used spray paint that couldn't be scrubbed off. Thanks again to Dave Kline for quickly covering the damage.

We have food and some incidentals for anyone who is hungry or in need of essentials. This offer extends to all who are in need, including those who illegally painted our wall.

Ruthanne Volz, executive director, Willits Food Bank

Willits Pool is open!

To the Editor:

Willits Pool is offering excellent water aerobics classes at 12 to 1 pm and 5 to 6 pm.

We are so fortunate to have this facility and the knowledgeable, personable instructors.

Enjoy, especially with the warmer days coming.

Lena Hofmaister, Willits

Editor's Note: See pool schedules on Page 6.



Getting Back to Normal

Shanachie Pub now open again after a year+ of COVID shut-down

"Normal is good beer, good wine, ciders, conversations and music," said Shanachie Pub owner, Pete Swanton. He quietly unlocked the gate and opened the door to the Pub on June 1. It had been 14.5 months since he'd closed indefinitely and continued paying the rent.

"I haven't been crazy about advertising that we're open, but Google knows!" he said. That fact shows up on a Google search, and he's now happily committed.

"Let's go! Let's start selling beers. I've got some recouping to do," he told this reporter.

The Pub is still the Pub with its colorfully painted walkway leading to the beer garden and swinging front door, down to the long bar, booths, small tables, and the 20 specialty brews on tap – complete with their well-worn and funky hand-lettered signs.

It continues to have that comfy feeling of sameness with a homey ambience, just like pubs have, that've served their communities as gathering places for centuries.

Swanton has an avid interest in brews of different natures and keeps up on that. This is where newness comes in: "We have a little bit different approach to beer these days," Swanton said. "In the past we were geared towards IPAs and pale ales. Certainly, we'll have some of those, but we're going to concentrate on more malty beers: in particular Pilsners, Lagers, and German styles for their lighter alcohol content. They're easier to drink and not so sharp and hoppy for the long, hot days. And honestly, everybody's doing IPAs. So I'm thinking, 'How can I be different?'"

Read the rest of
Shanachie

Over on Page 15



At top, left: It's 2:45 pm, and bartender, Vanessa Hershman, is doing last-minute preparations for the usual Friday night crowd of teachers that come in for a bit. On the right-hand side, the set of drums are eagerly awaiting the day when the music begins. At top, right: One of the Shanachie bartenders, Katie O'Rear, takes a moment to smile as she begins getting the non-alcoholic Ginger Beer put away. Ginger Beer is one of many non-alcoholic drinks offered by the Pub.

At right, above: The rows of flags painted on the wall demonstrate Shanachie Pub's international fame. Some of it from when the traveling immigrants are in town. At right, above, left: Behind the bar are signs about some of the 20 brews on tap. Right now, they include two non-alcoholic Kombuchas, a few sours, IPAs, a Kölsch, a black Lager, a few Pilsners and more. At right, above, right: Pete Swanton shows the photographer a bottle of Duchesse De Bourgogne. It's a sour beer from Belgium and one of the newest arrivals at Shanachie.

At left: Remember the weekly word scramble? It's alive and well to test your deciphering abilities.

Photos by Ree Slocum

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Auto • Home • Life • Health • Business

WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS TICKET SALES NOTICE:

At this time, tickets to the 2021 events are being sold as **PRESALE ONLY** and in limited quantities. If you want to ensure you get tickets, call our Sweetheart contestant, Claire Case-Brackett at 707-510-9816 before Friday, June 25.

News from KLLG Radio

By Earlene Gleisner, for KLLG

Have you ever wondered how so many people have recorded our station ID that plays every hour on the hour over KLLG? Want to hear your voice, too, over the radio? Come to our booth during the Willits Hometown Celebration on Friday, June 18, and let us record you. We will be handing out KLLG memorabilia and selling T-shirts as well. We are hoping our booth will again be at St. Francis Episcopal Parking Lot.

KLLG has received \$3,000 from the Community Foundation of Mendocino County from the COVID relief fund for operational costs and to help fund our October 9 fundraiser to be held at the Little Lake Grange. The "Unmasked Ball" will feature local headliners, a catered food booth, a bar, and a silent raffle. Any business wishing to support our broadcasting efforts can purchase a place on our poster for \$100 and be mentioned on our Facebook page. Donations for silent auction will be gratefully received.

We are still looking for one more person for our engineering team. All you need to know is the Windows system and be willing to be trained on our DJ program. We also would love anyone interested in developing and recording a unique show for our broadcasting week. Are you that person?

Contact us through our web site, www.kllg.org



Brooktrails Township announces improved customer service options

Submitted by Brooktrails Township Community Services District

Exciting changes are coming to the Brooktrails Township Community Services District office this summer. After struggling for years with an inefficient utility billing system and piecemealed financial programs, the township has implemented a new integrated utility billing and financial system through Caselle.

The updated system better coordinates and tracks customer accounts and service orders, while eliminating duplicative staff work, for improved overall financial task management and reduced waste.

Staff had planned and budgeted to have the new financial system installed and ready to go in 2020, but COVID challenges delayed implementation by over six months. Fortunately, the district was able to have an interim card payment option during the pandemic. The new system will have improved card payment options, including online payment availability and account management tools for customers.

"It would have been timely to have the updated program online during the pandemic, but it was actually COVID itself that got in the way of that happening," said Brooktrails General Manager Tamara Alaniz. "Staff has trained for months and worked diligently to remotely provide customer account and financial data to the vendor throughout this health crisis. We are all excited and determined to provide better customer service with these improvements."

Customers will also see their utility bills change from a small postcard to a full page-sized bill. The postcard-sized bills are more easily lost or misdelivered in the mail. The new utility bill format will show historical usage and have more flexibility when it comes to messaging and content.

For more information about the new utility billing and financial program, or any other questions about District business, please contact our office at 24860 Birch Street in Brooktrails or call us at 459-2494.

WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS
Hometown Celebration
Store Specials
Friday, June 18th
5p-9p
Downtown Willits
Live Music Featuring
PALMER ANTHONY RUNBERG
Food Vendors Family Fun

Willits Weekly's
Puzzle Page

Sudoku, Word Search & Crossword

Sudoku grid with numbers 1-9 in various positions.

SAFETY TERMS WORD SEARCH grid with letters A-Z.

Word search key: ACCIDENT, BODY, CRITICAL, DANGEROUS, DATA, EGRESS, GEAR, HAZARDOUS, HEALTH, HELMET, HOOD, ILLNESS, INGRESS, INJURY, LIFT, LOCKOUT, MACHINE, MANUAL, MONITORING, NIOSH, OCCUPATIONAL, OSHA, RISK.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-60.

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. 'Sleepless In Seattle' actress Ryan
4. One of Santa's reindeer
10. Before the present
11. Type of butter
12. Location of White House
14. Motion
15. Tree part
16. Regions around the North Pole
18. Fits on a boat's gunwale
22. Discuss after it's happened
23. Milk substitute for coffee
24. Describes one who believes in supreme being
26. Equally
27. Famed director Forman
28. Popular apartment style
30. British School
31. Advanced degree
34. Order of architecture
36. Investment account (abbr.)
37. Snake-like fishes
39. Children's tale bear

- 40. Norse personification of old age
41. Atomic #58
42. Moving your head
48. 1878 Kentucky Derby winner
50. Frankfurter
51. Small, seedless raisin
52. Device in papermaking machine
53. Go
54. Open payment initiative (abbr.)
55. 'Westworld' actor Harris
56. Saturated with salt
58. Marry
59. Report on
60. Midway between north and northeast

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Rays
2. Self-centered person
3. One you look after
4. Prosecutor
5. Snake-like fishes
6. Speaks ill of

HOW TO SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

WILLITS POLICE DEPARTMENT
POLICE LOG

June 7 to June 13
By Danya Davis, Willits Weekly

The officers of the Willits Police Department handled 193 incidents in this seven-day reporting period.

Summary of Active Investigations and Arrests

June 7
8:04 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 300 block of South Main Street.
8:41 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 1400 block of South Main Street.
3:39 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 100 block of Spruce Street and issued a warning.
3:49 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity near the intersection of Muir Lane and West Van Lane.
4:04 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 1200 block of Locust Street.
11:08 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.
11:57 pm: ANDERSON, Tyler Lee (20) of Willits was contacted in the 100 block of East Oak Street. He was arrested pursuant to 273.6 PC (Violation of a Protective Order) and felony 1203.2 PC (Violation of Probation).
June 8
10:07 am: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping near the intersection of East Hill Road and Sanhedrin Circle.
3:28 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 100 block of Holly Street.
June 9
8:30 am: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 200 block of North Main Street.
8:56 am: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of West Commercial Street.
7:19 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1700 block of South Main Street.
June 10
8:27 am: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 200 block of North Main Street and issued a citation.
12:20 pm: Officers responded to a report of illegal camping in the 800 block of Railroad Avenue and issued a warning.
12:23 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 1600 block of South Main Street.
2:42 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 200 block of School Street.
June 11
7:19 pm: Officers initiated a hit-and-run vehicle collision investigation in the 200 block of Franklin Avenue.
11:06 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 300 block of South Main Street.
June 11
1:20 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 300 block of East Valley Street.
3:43 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.
6:03 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 200 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
June 12
11:10 am: Officers responded to a report of a suspicious vehicle in the 1700 block of South Main Street and issued a warning.
1:14 pm: Officers initiated a theft investigation in the 800 block of South Main Street.
1:20 pm: Officers initiated a fraud investigation in the 100 block of Gregory Lane.
5:10 pm: Officers responded to a report of suspicious activity in the 100 block of Marcela Drive.
7:04 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 800 block of South Main Street.
7:22 pm: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 100 block of West Valley Street.
11:21 pm: KENNY IV, Owen Arthur (33) of Willits was contacted in the 1100 block of Magnolia Avenue following a disturbance. He was arrested pursuant to 273.5 PC (Domestic Corporal Injury), 236 PC (False Imprisonment), and on felony charges of domestic battery.
11:27 pm: Officers responded to a report of an unwanted subject in the 1400 block of Willow Lane.



Owen Arthur Kenny IV of Willits.

June 13
8:15 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 100 block of West Valley Street and issued a warning.
8:50 am: Officers responded to a report of trespassing in the 100 block of West Valley Street.
12:50 pm: Officers responded to a report of vandalism in the 100 block of California Street.
5:54 pm: Officers responded to a disturbance in the 200 block of Shell Lane.

WILLITS FRONTIER DAYS
TICKET SALES NOTICE:

At this time, tickets to the 2021 events are being sold as PRESALE ONLY and in limited quantities. If you want to ensure you get tickets, call our Sweetheart contestant, Claire Case-Brackett at 707-510-9816 before Friday, June 25.

The rest of Cases From Page 1

in Potter Valley on June 11. Attendees of the party who are unvaccinated should also get a COVID-19 test. For individuals who are fully vaccinated and develop symptoms, testing is recommended. Testing is available in Ukiah, Sunday through Thursday at the Ukiah Fairgrounds from 9 am to 5 pm.

As of June 10, Applebee's Restaurant, 1201 Airport Park Boulevard in Ukiah, and Diggers Bar, 244 South Main Street in Willits, have been confirmed to have one positive COVID-19 case each among their staff. Therefore, members of the public and restaurant staff who are not fully vaccinated and who were at Applebee's Restaurant between the dates of June 4 to 7, 2021 or Diggers Bar between the dates of June 3 to 5, 2021, are asked to get tested and closely monitor for symptoms of COVID-19. Testing is available in Ukiah, Sunday through Thursday at the Ukiah Fairgrounds from 9 am to 5 pm.

These cases coincide with an overall increase in COVID-19 cases during the past six weeks in Mendocino County. Given the rise in positive cases, Mendocino County

Health Officer Dr. Andy Coren would like to emphasize the importance of staying home from work when exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19. Common symptoms are fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

Other symptoms may include chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, fatigue, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or new loss of taste or smell. In addition, we hope employers will encourage vaccination for their staff to reduce the possibility of outbreaks and protect all of our communities from COVID-19. We want to support restaurants in their efforts to provide a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

We ask that the community stay vigilant and follow the guidance outlined by the California Department of Public Health and Mendocino County Public Health. For more information about COVID-19 vaccines, testing, and masking, contact the Mendocino County Public Health COVID-19 Call Center at 707-472-2759 or visit our website at: mendocinocounty.org/community/novel-coronavirus.

'The Viewing Room'
Willits Community Theatre returns to live shows with the July 2 opening of this American comedy by Mark Smith

By Steve Hellman, for WCT

In its return to presenting live performances, Willits Community Theatre will open on Friday, July 2 for a three-week run of "The Viewing Room," a contemporary American comedy from Sacramento playwright Mark Smith. The hilarious two-act play is about a stern and very dead patriarch who comes back to life for a chance to make amends with his family.

Directed by Mathew Caine, the show features a cast of our local favorite actors. The part of old man Chester Dumbrosky is played by veteran actor Steve Marston, who Caine says brings a sweet intelligence to the role. Also starring in the play are Kelly Kesey, Kathy Vellis, Rod Grainger, Jeff Shipp, Robert Ford, Lisa Wilcox and Aris Vellis.

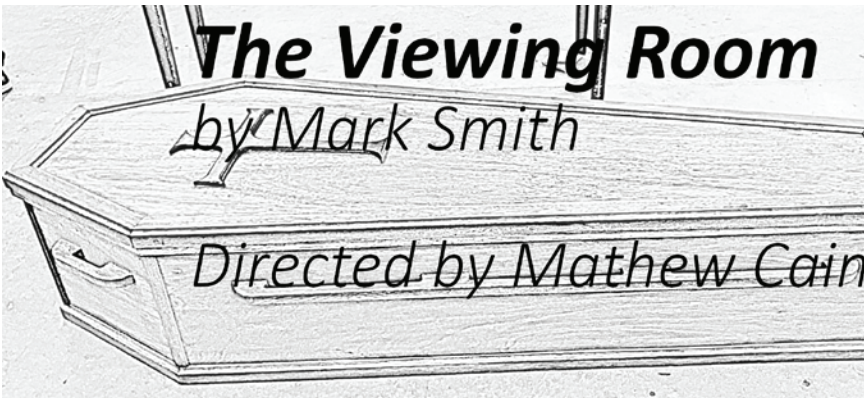
Director Caine says it's a real shocker when old man Dumbrosky pops up alive in his coffin at the mortuary and wants his kids and widow to understand – he's only human. Caine says of the script, "There's a lot of good little zingers and clever humor about the dysfunctional family."

While the initial shock and disbelief over Chester's venting reappearance soon moves into laughable exchanges, it's the alienated family members trying desperately to find some way out, through forgiveness of one another, that renders the most engaging humor. "Funny" and "heartwarming" sums it up.

Performances of "The Viewing Room" will be on July 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17 and 18, with Thursday shows at 7:30 pm for \$15, Friday and Saturday at 8 pm for \$20, and Sunday matinees at 2 pm for \$15. Tickets are available online at the WCT website: www.wctperformingartscenter.org. The WCT Playhouse is located at 37 West Van Lane (behind Shanachie Pub).

The Willits Community Theatre will follow currently applicable COVID-19 state and county guidelines. For all but two shows, patrons will be required to bring their vaccination cards and show them at the door. For the Friday, July 9 and Friday, July 16 shows, vaccination certificates will not be required, and instead social distancing will be in place, with a maximum cap of 15 seats for each show.

At right, from top: The full cast of "The Viewing Room" showing July 2 through 18 at the WCT playhouse includes, from left: Rod Grainger, Kathy Vellis, Steve Marston, Robert Ford, Kelly Kesey, Jeff Shipp, Lisa Wilcox, and Aris Vellis. When her stern penny-pinching husband played by Steve Marston comes back to life in his coffin, widow Florence played by Kathy Vellis needs a moment to comprehend matters. The surprise of a lifetime comes in "The Viewing Room" when old man Chester Dumbrosky played by Steve Marston pops back to life to plead for understanding from his youngest son Matthew played by Jeff Shipp.



Sparetime Garden Center advertisement for Friday, June 18th. Special deals on select products from 9 am - 4 pm. Monday-Saturday 8 am - 6 pm, Sunday 9 am - 5 pm.

Cougar's Closet II Mini-Storage advertisement. 12th Month FREE! When 1 year paid in advance. 317 Robert Drive Willits, CA 95490. 707-259-0159 or 707-459-4599. Lincoln Realty 1661-A South Main St. • Willits, CA 95490.

Crown Groves advertisement. Groceries, Beer & Wine, Gas & Diesel. Pay at the Pump. 7am - 10pm, 459-4854, 1799 So. Main St., P.O. Box 428. Family owned since 1983.



Photos by Mathew Caine

Willits Frontier Days 95th Annual event poster. "There's No Place Like Home". Events include Friday, June 18: Hometown Celebration; Saturday, June 19: Sweetheart Judging; Sunday, June 20: Horse Show, Sweetheart Judging, National Anthem; Friday, June 25: Carnival; Saturday, June 26: Sweetheart Crowned; Friday, July 2: Junior Rodeo; Saturday, July 3: Lions Cowboy Breakfast, CCPRA Professional Rodeo, Western Dance; Sunday, July 4: Horseshoe Contest, Main Street Parade. Ticket sales notice and major sponsors listed.

At right: Customer Linda Weldon was excited for the farm stand to open in July of 2020. At right, below: 2020 garden crew members Mellisa Bouley, Scott Selzer, and Quinton Bowlds.

Commonwealth Garden

Now open for 2021 season with greens, eggs, bread and more

Sick of waiting for your just- (or almost just) planted garden to produce goodies right NOW? No worries, Mellisa Bouley and her crew of helpers at the Commonwealth Garden have got you covered and are planning their second farm-stand sale this Friday from 10 am to 2 pm.

The garden is located just across the road from Adventist Health Howard Memorial and is accessible from the gate at the south end of the garden, just before the Haehl Creek subdivision.

Last Friday, the group held their first garden sale and offered lettuce, asparagus, radishes, strawberries, rhubarb, artichokes, kale, collards, chard, green onions, green garlic, garlic scapes, eggs, bread and

plants starts including basil and lettuces.

Suggested donation prices are listed each week for the offerings currently available, but items are sold on a pay-for-what-you-can-afford basis. The garden produces food for use in the hospital's kitchen and restaurant, Roots, as well as for donations to the Willits Community Services and Food Bank, local schools and more. When the season allows, the farm stand offers the organic, delicious, produce to the public, too.

Offerings vary week by week and can usually be found on Bouley's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/mellisa.bouley.

More info: 459-2777.

— Maureen Jennison



Above: Claire Case-Brackett, Walker Klee and Danielle Barry smile for a photo. At right: Even at State Finals, Case-Brackett, who is running for Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart, is out selling tickets.

Cowboy & Cowgirl Congrats

Claire Case-Brackett, Walker Klee and Danielle Barry compete at High School Rodeo State Finals

Three students represented District 2 at the California High School Rodeo finals last weekend including: Walker Klee, Danielle Barry and Claire Case-Brackett.

Klee made the short go and ended up placing 6th in the State for the .22 Light Rifle Competition. He also qualified for Bull Riding, but fractured and dislocated his shoulder at Challenge of the Champions, but ended the District 2 season with 2nd place in Bulls.

Case-Brackett competed in Poles and Cutting at the finals event; however, an injured horse in the poles event prevented her from placing. She placed well in the cutting event, but wasn't able to advance further. Nothing stopped her from selling tickets, however – Case-Brackett is running for Willits Frontier Days Sweetheart 2021.

Barry qualified to attend State finals after qualifying as a Top 5 rider in the Reining Cow competition in District 2. While she enjoyed competing in the event at State, she was unable to place high enough to move forward to Nationals. This was only the fourth competition for Barry and horse Brodey.

— Tiffany Klee and Maureen Jennison



Photo by Marcy Barry



Photos by Mathew Caine



Happy Stretch

Stretch is a happy and friendly little dude – a Dachshund mix, 5 years old, he weighs 20 pounds. He appears to enjoy the company of other dogs. He will enjoy going out for daily walks and sitting on your lap in the evenings. We think this guy will be your BFF in no time at all!

To learn more about Stretch or to see the Mendocino County Animal Shelter's canine and feline guests, and updates about COVID-19 and the inland shelter, located at 298 Plant Road in Ukiah, visit: www.mendoanimalshelter.com. For information about adoptions, please call 707-467-6453.

Lil' Pocket

Squishy-face cutie patootie fun-size Pocket has made his appearance! This adorable little guy is a ball of cuteness! He is 2 years old and only 44 pounds! Meaning he is the perfect size to go anywhere with you.

Pocket is literally the best of both worlds. He loves to spend time with you, go on adventures, but can mellow out when needed. He will not complain about lounging on the couch, snuggled up, and getting your attention. Pocket is ready to skip shelter life and start his next adventure as your new forever best friend! Apply today to love Pocket at mendohumanesociety.com. Hurry, he will not be available long!

The Humane Society for Inland Mendocino County, 9700 Uva Drive in Redwood Valley, is open Wednesday through Friday from 1 to 5 pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 11 am to 3 pm, by appointment only, for intakes, adoptions and fostering. For information or any questions, call 707-485-0123 or, for cats, you may email catteam@hsimc.org and, for dogs, you may email dogteam@hsimc.org. Visit www.petfinder.com or the "Humane Society for Mendocino County" page on Facebook to see available dogs and cats, visit www.mendohumanesociety.com to learn more.



Above, from left: Marcos Cardona holds up a pair of Apple Air Pods he won at Sober Grad. Alyssa Conrad holds her new 32" TV. Sober Grad crewmember Rachel Cash pulls a raffle ticket winner from a bag held by Sober Grad's Joyce Waters. Devina Cash, right, was on scene to give henna tattoos. At right: Graduates gather just shy of 1 am to hear the names of the final mega prize winners. At right, below: Mega \$1,000 cash prize winners included Matthew Harries and Julissa Perez.

Sober Grad Success

After a less traditional event last year, Sober Grad returns closer to normal with annual grad-night event last Friday

"A year like no other" continued its hold on the Class of 2021, including being the official theme of the annual graduation-night celebration, Sober Grad. This year's event was held at the Willits High School Ag Farm and was a relatively happy medium between the 2019-and-before all-night bash, and the 2020 online-only compromise.

The Sober Grad crew threw a carnival-themed party for the 86 Willits-area graduates who attended complete with midway games, cornhole tournament, carnival food, photo booth, henna tattoos, mixed coffee drinks, rocking DJ playing all the hits, and much more.

There were lots of prizes to be won with tickets earned from winning at the midway games, which included traditional favorite games like: duck pond, ring toss, ping pong balls into fish bowls, knock over the cans, darts at balloons, and blasting ping pong bottles with squirt guns.

The cornhole tournament also paid out handsomely: The first-place team, Nomiah Britton and Zandria Mondo, won \$200; the second-place team, Marcos Cardona and Kenyon Ochs, won \$100; and the third-place team, Geovanni Bertolino and Daven Framke, won \$50.

Read the rest of Sober Grad Over on Page 15



At left: Graduate Martin Coughlin won the "Guess how many M&M's game" with a guess of 1,284 – just 6 pieces off of the total of 1,290. At right: Carnival food was served from authentic booths at Sober Grad. Below: WHS Assistant Principal Marian Lohne put on a show, spinning "Fire Poi" – weights set ablaze and then spun rhythmically at the end of tethers.



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707-303-5456
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www.eckankar.org

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10 a.m.
Other ministries suspended for now.
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(707) 459-3106

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church
61 W. San Francisco Ave.
Willits, CA 95490
Father Aaron Bandanadam
Mass times:
Confessions by appointment:
459-2252
Sunday Mass inside:
9:00 a.m. English
10:30 a.m. Spanish
Saturday Mass: 5:30 p.m.
Covid guidelines apply.
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707-272-0177
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ALL ARE WELCOME
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St. John Lutheran Church
Karl Bliese, Pastor
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following the service.
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ALL ARE WELCOME

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Saturdays: Meeting place at church located at 399 W. Mendocino Avenue
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Sanhedrin High School students (in black) and faculty (in red), pose in front of the SHS Class of 2021 banner. From left: Graduate and Student of the Year award-winner Michael Grimes, John Horton, Ethan Schlieff, Yuliya Ritchley, and Jeff Ritchley.

Sanhedrin graduates get Class of 2021 sweatshirts

Thanks to an amazing donation from Nat Collicott of Collicott Construction, the graduates of Sanhedrin High School had the opportunity to receive a free Class of 2021 senior sweatshirt.

The back design incorporates the 2021 graduates names in the shape of the Sanhedrin mascot: GO HAWKS!

These kids soared through some of the most amazing obstacles in these past two years. Sanhedrin had the largest graduating class in its history. We're so grateful to Nat. And we're all so proud of you, Class of 2021!!!

— Submitted by Sanhedrin High School



Above: Graduate Nicholas Karkar poses for a quick moment in front of the camera as he walks down the aisle towards the grandstands. Below, from left: Graduates hold their diplomas atop their colored robes and colorful decorations in the form of money and flower leis, sashes, cords ribbons, and other honors, including: Hannah Bouthillier, Amarah Potter, Kaiden Butler and Zandria Mondo.



Above, from left: 2021 graduate and Co-Valedictorian Aleen Hernandez addresses the crowd as WHS Principal Michael Colvig watches. Senior class president Samantha Arms speaks to the gathered crowd. Salutatorian Amy Andrade speaks at the podium during graduation. WHS Assistant Principal Marian Lohne shares a tender moment with the Class of 2021, including her son, Skylar Arnold. At left: Graduates walk in distanced pairs towards the grandstands, including Ceder Lowhan, left, and Dylan Gijon, right. Below: Members of the Class of 2021 sat in socially distanced rows on the grandstands – usually, the parents are on the stands. This year, the parents observed from the field.



Congrats to the Grads

WHS hosts Class of 2021 Graduation Ceremony

The rain held off JUST long enough on Friday, June 11 to allow the graduates of Willits High School and Sanhedrin High School to cross the stage at Maize Field and receive their diplomas.

The graduates came to celebrate their successes over a difficult year and did so in great spirits. Speeches were given by some school officials and also by the co-Valedictorians

Claire Case-Brackett and Aleen Hernandez and Salutatorian Amy Andrade. Brackett was unable to attend graduation so her speech was pre-recorded and played for family and friends. Senior class president Samantha Arms also spoke during the short-and-sweet ceremony. Read about the procession which followed on Page 10.

— Maureen Jennison



Congrats Colten Horger

Congratulations to Colten Horger, 2017 graduate of Willits High School, who graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University on May 29, 2021 with a BA in Economics and a minor in accounting.



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photography by maureen (moore) jennison

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Above, left: Adriana Rodriguez poses amid the myriad of balloons around the sun roof. Above, right: Teo Labus poses triumphantly on a brightly festooned pickup truck, while his dog wonders what is going on. Below, from left: Friends and family of Skylar Arnold watch the graduation on TV prior to the parade. Friends of the Taylor Drew family have come to show their support. Sakora Scott feels triumphant at her graduation.



Grads on Display

Class of 2021 celebrates with a procession around town, passing WUSD schools many attended in their journey to high school

Now what? After the last 12 years involved in the routine of schoolwork, sports, field trips and dances, and other extracurricular activities, the seniors of the Willits High School Class of 2021 graduated. Now it is the time for choices that needed to be made concerning the rest of their lives, decisions about their next steps in life.

Do they continue their education at a junior college or university, take a year off to discover their paths, or find a job to create their independence? Some knew where they were going next, having been accepted to prestigious universities in California or in other states, or planning stints at two-year colleges or vocational institutions.

All had one thing in common: They graduated. Years of study and work had brought them to this point in their lives, and they were going to celebrate their accomplishment, first with a ceremony, which had mercifully been somewhat truncated from last year. Due to COVID restrictions, the previous year's ceremony had the graduates and their families in their vehicles to listen to the speeches. With the easing of some of the protocols, they were allowed to gather in a socially distant manner, masked in the stands, while the families gathered on the field as the students, one by one, climbed down to accept their diplomas.

After all the certificates had been awarded, the graduates mounted their vehicles, some in the beds of pickup trucks, some hanging out the windows of family cars, and even

one in a huge military vehicle. They then proceeded, in a nascent tradition begun last year, to wend their way through the streets of Willits, in a route tracing the educational journey of most.

They began by turning south on Main Street, past the friends, families, and well-wishers, with their hand-painted signs of encouragement and congratulations. Many of the onlookers had witnessed the graduation online on their phones or computers prior to gathering on the street.

After driving down Main Street through downtown Willits, the procession made its way through the local

Read the rest of **Procession** Over on Page 15



Above, left: A happy Callie Brown waves to the procession watchers. Above, right: Jada Smith managed to stay dry in the light rain. At right: Sisters Allegra and Aria Silveira threw handfuls of lollipops to the crowd.

Photos by Mathew Caine

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EOE

WW327

CITY OF WILLITS

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

PROJECT NO. 2021-02

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Sealed bids for:

The work shown on the project plans entitled:

CITY OF WILLITS

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

PROJECT PLANS

For:

2021 Dig-Out & Pavement Preservation Project - Project No. 2021-02

This project includes grinding and replacing 4"- and 6"-deep asphalt dig-out sections and thermoplastic pavement marking restoration

IN

City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California &

The work described in specifications books entitled:

CITY OF WILLITS - BID BOOK & TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

CITY OF WILLITS - PROPOSAL PACKET

CITY OF WILLITS - AWARD PACKET

For:

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IN

City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California will be received by a designated representative, of the City of Willits, County of Mendocino, State of California, until the hour of 2 p.m., July 15, 2021, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud in the City Council Chambers, of the City of Willits, located at 111 East Commercial Street, Willits, California.

CITY OF WILLITS: s/Cathy Moorhead, Deputy City Manager/ City Clerk

DATED: 06/14/21

Publication Dates: June 17, 24 and July 1, 2021

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LEGALS

WW323

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2021-F0259

The following persons are doing business as Body Works Gym, 1511 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490.

Registered owners: Jason M. Logan and Alicia L. Logan, 451 East Hill Road, Willits, CA 95490

This business is conducted by a married couple.

The registrants commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on October 1, 2020.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on May 6, 2021.

/s/ Jason M. Logan

Publication dates: May 27, June 3, 10, 17, 2021

LEGALS

WW324

Fictitious Business Name Statement

2021-F0279

The following person is doing business as Hatake Farm Kitchen, 50 South Main Street, Willits, CA 95490.

Registered owner: Ryo Muto, 204 South Hortense Street, Apt. B, Ukiah CA 95482.

This business is conducted by an individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name listed above on May 12, 2021.

FBN statement filed with the Mendocino County Clerk-Recorder on May 12, 2021.

/s/ Ryo Muto

Publication dates: June 3, 10, 17, 24, 2021

The rest of **Carnival** From Page 1

and mother, Amanda. "The kids have been asking when the carnival is coming and are so excited to go!"

"I'm excited to watch them ride the rides ... and SCREAM!" laughed Michael, to which the sisters, Sephora, 7, and DaisyLynn, 4, shrieked and giggled with delight at the thought. "This is the first year that DaisyLynn will be tall enough to ride the rides! I'm excited to spend some time with my girls."

The Maciels are excited to celebrate the upcoming Father's Day holiday together as well, attending a church barbecue and making new memories together.

Michael's favorite Father's Day memory? "I remember the first year that Sephora was old enough to draw a Father's Day card for me, and write "Happy Father's Day" herself, in her own handwriting. It was so special!"

Don't forget: Father's Day is this Sunday, June 20, and riding the carnival rides – or just enjoying a corn dog – the following Friday might be just the perfect way to celebrate.



Above: Graduates get ready to take their places at the cornhole tournament out at the WHS Ag farm during Sober Grad.

Photo by Matthew Jennison

The rest of **Sober Grad** From Page 1

As always, the swag graduates received for staying until the party's conclusion at 1 am included \$50 and \$75 checks for all who stayed, and dozens of students received coveted prizes as their names were pulled from the raffle ticket bag. While all attendees received entries into the raffle, those who volunteered had extra entries and special drawings, too. Callie Brown was a big winner in the volunteer drawing as she earned the most points over the year and served as the student representative on the board of Sober Grad. Taylor Drew was another big volunteer winner, and even took home a new TV.

"We would like to thank the Willits community again for their amazing support!," said Willits Sober Grad's Joyce Waters. "It is so gratifying to live in a community that supports our youth the way it does. We were happy to have been able to hold an outdoor party this year and give the grads an activity to attend after the 'Year Like No Other' year they experienced. However, we are looking forward to an indoor party next year!"

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Estate Sale

ESTATE SALE! 1400 East Hill Road. Friday, June 18 and Saturday, June 19, 8 am to 4 pm. Cash only. Antiques, Farm Tools & Equipment, Building Supplies, Scrap Metal & Wood, Household Items, Books and Furniture.

For Rent

Room for rent. Must have job. No pets, no drugs. \$525/month. 354-0287.

Freezer Empty? We can help!

Due to health concerns in Mendocino County, John Ford Ranch will be taking meat box orders (not individual package orders) for pick-up: Rancher's Choice Box - 50 pounds: steaks, roasts, and ground beef. Still \$325 (\$6.50 per pound). Hamburger Box: 25 pound box of hamburger in 1 or 1.5 pound packages: \$150. Natural ranch-raised grass fed beef, no hormones or antibiotics. Call 459-5193 to arrange pick-up. Leave a message, and we'll call back.

The Fruit Group

Apricots \$34 a lug, early nectarines & peaches \$33 a lug. Thurs. morns. June 10, 19, 24. Call Brenda 459-9335 or thefruitgroup95490@yahoo.com

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Looking for in-house masseuse to work out of chiropractor's office. Flexible schedule. Bring resume to 1225 S. Main St. or fax to 707-459-9484.

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Willits Food Bank Open

Willits Community Services & Food Bank continues to distribute food, following COVID-19 safety provisions, to hungry families and individuals in the Willits area, with an increase in numbers served. The front office at 229 E San Francisco Ave is closed to the public, but the back door area is open for food distribution on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 4:30 pm. Info: 459-3333; financial donations to WCS can be mailed to 229 E. San Francisco, Willits CA 95490.

Yard Sale

Huge Multi-Family Yard Sale. A lot of new clothes with tags on, gently used clothes, shoes, baby items, household items, toys, and much much more. Don't miss out! Saturday, June 19th, 2021 at 8 am. 300 East Valley St.

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OBITUARY |

John Arlich

John Joseph Arlich, long-time resident of Willits, passed away May 29, 2021 at the age of 91. He was born May 31, 1929 to George and Mary Gerzina Arlich in Goodland, Minnesota. He married Darlene June Arlich September 02, 1954 in Reno, Nevada.

A logger and timber faller for 52 years, he greatly enjoyed working in the outdoors. A man of many interests, he loved hunting, fishing and camping with family and friends. He was always working on cars, gardening, and household projects; and especially enjoyed attending family parties.

John was preceded in death by many beloved family members: parents, George and Mary Arlich; wife, Darlene June Arlich; son, Steven Brian Arlich; brothers: Henry Arlich, Louis Arlich, and Raymond Arlich; sisters: Fran "Arlich" Lorence, Mary "Arlich" Carlson, and Ann "Arlich" Lynch. He is survived by his son, John A. Arlich; grandchildren: Jarrod Arlich, Matthew Arlich, Christina "Arlich" Ashiku, Steven Arlich and Jason Arlich; great-grandchildren: Aaron Arlich, Jayden Arlich, Phillip Ashiku, Rehma Ashiku, Hannah Ashiku, Bailey Arlich, Nathan Arlich, Tyler Arlich, Jonathan Arlich, and Jacob Arlich; and, numerous nephews and nieces. A Family Graveside Service was held June 8, 2021 at the Little Lake Cemetery.

Arrangements under the care and direction of Anker-Lucier Mortuary.


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5:30 & 8:00pm
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(PG)13
2 hrs 23 mins
Fri., June 17 thru Sun., June 20
4:30 & 7:30pm
Thurs., June 24
4:30 & 7:30pm
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COLUMN | AT THE MOVIES

'In the Heights'

The Story: Old fashioned musical romance with singing, dancing, an earnest engaging hero, and most importantly: A Happy Ending. Unav's (Anthony Ramos) bodega in The Heights section of New York City seems to be his destiny. He's grateful to have a business – and at the same time, he wants out. He dreams of returning to his boyhood home in Dominican Republic.

Meanwhile, he's wooing (in a stumbling fashion) beautiful Vanessa (Melissa Barrera). She works at a nail salon in The Heights, but she dreams of moving uptown (I think it's uptown) to be a fashion designer. She, too, wants out. The Hispanic community known as The Heights is like a big loving family, but it seems everyone has an unfulfilled yearning to leave ... and so yearn they do, and also they sing and dance just about every chance they get.

My Thoughts: An ambitious flick about struggling working-class men and women hoping to be someone ... to define themselves. Really, this is class struggle. These folks living in The Heights, no matter how joyful their life actually is, still they feel like they're living in a cage, like they're caught in a trap. A bit like Brando in "On the Waterfront," they want a bigger better destiny, they want to be somebody. And don't we all. Great songs. Great dances. Enjoy!

Parents: This is a good movie, and safe for all ages, though I recommend it for older children, teens and adults. *Willitsian Daniel Essman prefers his reality attenuated by the wisdom of the imagination.*



Dan Essman
Columnist



The rest of **LLFD** | *From Page 1*

fire district; now is the time to cut weeds and stop burning; and good endings to three fires – two lightning fires and one structure fire.

A grand opening, ribbon-cutting ceremony and dedication of the firehouse, and a day of fun for the community in the park, will happen on September 11.

The historic bell, refurbished and looking "fantastic [and] super-nostalgic," will figure prominently in the dedication ceremony and is a particularly favorite for Fire Chief Chris Wilkes.

"The bell's been a topic since day one," he said. "It's been an important thing for me. I'm looking forward to its going in. I think that's going to be a special day."

"It's not steel ... [it's] bronze with nickel-plating on it ... so that's why it looks silver," he continued. "To me, it's going to set off the outside of the building.... [It's] a piece of our history."

Noting that "there's a ton of work in it," he took the opportunity to give "a shout out to" the people who did that work and made the bell and the yoke that will support it: "Beautiful."

"Yokum's Body Shop did a wonderful job helping us out," said Wilkes. "I tell you, when the bell came back and that crossbar came back.... They're beautiful. They didn't just paint them. They buffed them, clear-coated them, and treated them like they were painting a classic car."

And Deputy Chief John Thomen and Training Chief Eric Alvarez made a "beautiful" bell yoke from two pieces of redwood donated by board president Tony Madrigal.

"We couldn't get redwood big enough to make it happen, so we put two pieces together," said Wilkes. "They dowelled through them and wood glued them all together ... to go on top of the bell to support it, to make it look like that wood yoke is what's actually holding the bell out in front of the station."

Firefighters' Association president Aaron Branscomb "made it shine again.... He buffed it all out."

The planned "community event/fundraiser" in the park, Wilkes explained, was "spearheaded by the Rotary ... [with] all the service clubs involved now ... Soroptimist, Lion's Club ... the American Legion doing their September 11 ceremony.

"It's a good chance for the community to see what they've built and how important this is moving forward," he said. "There's

The rest of **Increase** | *From Page 1*

an expensive a place to live and that there was an increase a couple of years ago because it was needed to fix our infrastructure. I think you are asking too much of us. Luckily, I can make the payment, but I do feel that there are some people that are having a hard [financial] time in our community who will not be helped by the situation."

Additionally, there was an emailed letter from another Brooktrails resident, Cathy Moorhead, who was also against the rate increase.

After General Manager Tamara Alaniz read Moorhead's letter, it was noted in the record and President Rick Williams closed the public hearing on the matter. He then opened a public hearing on the second agenda item under consideration: Resolution 2021-08 - Adopting the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Financial Plan for Services (Budget). Seeing that there was no one appearing for that item, the hearing was closed.

General Manager Alaniz explained that the volumetric rate increase is based on Brooktrails' actual costs for water treatment in 2020. She said, "When we raise the rates, we have to show that we are charging for our actual costs. When we have small incremental rate increases when they're needed, we avoid disruptive, larger increases happening later on in the process."

In the staff report for the agenda item, it was stated "that a water user who uses the maximum allowed monthly amount of 9,000 gallons would see their bill increase by about \$3 per month, while an average user would see \$1 to \$1.50 increase on their monthly water bill."

Director Tony Orth stated: "What I have seen on social media is a misunderstanding of the base rates. People are thinking the sewer base rate is the same as the water base rate. The most costs occur in the sewer base rate. We have less control on the sewer base rate. The base rate is where the most costs occur, not in the volumetric rates."

The board then voted unanimously in favor of Resolution 2021-07

going to be food, music, drinks ... [and] a live and silent auction" fundraiser.

Impact fees

Wilkes also reported on another fundraising mechanism coming the district's way – fees assessed when new development projects are proposed within the district's areas of responsibility.

The fees have to be collected by the city or county, depending on the location of the project, so approval by the city was a prerequisite to implementation of the fee program, and the city recently voted its approval.

"I want to thank the City of Willits. We were finally able to get on the agenda," said Wilkes. "As of Monday, July 26, the impact fee structure will be in place, and we'll be utilizing that with new projects that come into the city," he said.

As for the county, "We're on the agenda for the board of supervisors June 22."

Collaborative endeavors with the city are common for the district.

"Prevention work with the Community Development Department, Planning and Building, it's a big part of our job and what we do," said Wilkes. "Grasses are getting tall, and abatement's an issue now all around the fire district."

Neither weeds nor the district's area of responsibility stop at city limits, so the district also collaborates with the county when it comes to abatement.

"The county has adopted a fire hazard abatement ordinance so you can fill out a code enforcement form with Mendocino County and submit it to Planning and Building if there's a fire hazard on a property that has to do with vegetative matter," said Wilkes "That hasn't happened before."

He wasn't too sure how well it would work.

"We'll see how that program works out," he said. "I think the county's going to have their hands full with that as the year moves on."

Burn ban

Also, "there's a burn ban in effect, so no more outdoor burning," he said.

And he told the board about three recent burns.

There were "a couple of lightning-caused vegetation fires ... one just outside our district and one in our district," he said. "Those were handled pretty quickly between local fire resources ... mutual aid resources."

"Certainly CalFire was involved in the one out in Tomki and got a handle on those

quick," he said. "Seems like, in our area, knock on wood, we usually get a lightning event a year if we're going to have one."

There was also "a structure fire," he continued. "I'm really proud of everybody that showed up."

"We had a good Little Lake response. We had a Brooktrails response. We had a Ridgewood Ranch response," he said. "It started in a laundry/bathroom, and aside from smoke damage, we were able to hold it to that."

Structure fires, he went on, are quite a bit less frequent than they used to be.

"There was a time in the past, certainly in my younger days in the fire department," he began, "I can remember we had a January, we had 12 structure fires in it."

"In today's world, the way construction practices are, we don't run 12 structure fires a year normally," he said.

Pine Mountain road names

Putting out structure fires, and everything else the district does, involves getting to the scene of the fire or accident or medical emergency in the first place. And that has become a problem for emergency responders in one local area.

"Another biggie that's on the plate right now," explained Wilkes. "We're working with the county for renaming and readdressing for roads up in the Mariposa Creek/Old Boy Scout Road area."

"We've been called to a structure fire that's on Bear Canyon Road. We go to what we know as Bear Canyon, what our mapping book shows is Bear Canyon Road.... But the reality was, it was a finger off of Old Boy Scout Road, and we had to come all the way back around. And that's just one incident."

"When somebody says they're having a heart attack, and they're on Mariposa Creek.... Are they on Mariposa Creek, or are they on Old Boy Scout Road?" he asked. "Because, actually, Old Boy Scout Road is not really the real road name at this time."

He continued: "I sent Eric [Alvarez] and Aaron [Branscomb] up there numerous times to drive that whole thing working with the county to try and figure out where the delineation is between roads. And literally, one

personnel eradicated 4,191 growing marijuana plants and approximately 76 pounds of processed bud marijuana."

75000 block of County Road 337L / Refuse Road in Covelo: On June 4, COMMET members served a search warrant at the listed property with the assistance of personnel from the California Department of Fish & Wildlife.

The warrant was issued as a result of probable cause being established that marijuana was being unlawfully grown on the property.

The initial investigation showed the property owner was allowing several groups of individuals to unlawfully grow large amounts of marijuana on the property.

COMMET personnel eradicated 3,076 growing marijuana plants and approximately 36.5 pounds of processed bud marijuana.

Evidence located showed act(s) of wildlife poaching and an imitation rifle (orange safety tip removed) at the grow site.

24000 block of Biggar Lane in Covelo: On June 7, COMMET members responded to a reported illegal trespassing marijuana-growing operation on tribal lands which had been reported by the Round Valley Tribe and Mendocino County Code Enforcement.

COMMET was assisted by personnel from the Sheriff's Office Detective Unit and the Mendocino Major Crimes Task Force.

COMMET contacted an adult male who was inside a marijuana drying room which was not a county-permitted structure.

COMMET personnel eradicated 2,339 growing marijuana plants.

24400 block of Biggar Lane in Covelo: On June 7, COMMET members responded to a reported illegal trespassing marijuana growing operation on tribal

road just runs into another one ... with no corner, no delineation, no nothing. It just changes right in the middle of the road.

"We've been up there for calls before where we've been questioned on the length of time it takes to get there," he said. "Well, the reality is, we're looking for addresses."

"When we were sending engines up there to do work from other counties that were here on strike teams [during] the Redwood Complex fire, they literally couldn't find their way around," he said. "Most of them use GPS units in their vehicles to find these addresses."

"The best map book that they had was the one that we use that's up there on the shelf that's hand-drawn," he said. "That's literally what we have up there, are locally named roads that are hand-drawn on maps, and the reality is we need to fix that and make it consistent."

"I know that it's not popular for a lot of folks that live up there. A lot of folks don't want those roads' names changed," he said. "They've lived there for many years and had the address be one thing for 40 years. I know it's a difficult thing, but we're just trying to look after emergency response."

"The residents up there can express their displeasure with it, and bring it to the board of supervisors," he said. "And if they elect to not make those changes, then we'll keep moving forward as it is."

Board member Tom Herman asked whether Wilkes had "talked with the Pine Mountain Fire Safe Council."

"I have not," Wilkes responded. "But it's probably a good idea to pull them in and see what they have to say."

In the end....

"One of the areas that scares me the most with wildfire is that area," said Wilkes.

The rest of **Busts** | *From Page 1*

52000 block of North Highway 101 in Laytonville: On June 4, COMMET members served a search warrant at the listed property with the assistance of personnel from the California Department of Fish & Wildlife.

The investigation was based upon information provided to "Cal-Tip" in regards to reported acts of wildlife poaching and unlawful marijuana cultivation.

COMMET personnel eradicated 4,191 growing marijuana plants and approximately 76 pounds of processed bud marijuana."

Investigators noticed several acres of the tribal land that had been clear cut of trees, and a protective sweep of immediate area showed the presence of several firearms.

Investigators obtained a search warrant for the property based upon their observations which was subsequently served on the same day.

COMMET personnel eradicated 5,131 growing marijuana plants, approximately 2,204 pounds of freshly harvested drying marijuana buds, approximately 596 pounds of processed marijuana, and approximately 244 pounds of packaged processed marijuana.

COMMET personnel also seized three AR-15 style assault rifles (ghost guns), one semi-automatic handgun, and one bolt action .223 caliber rifle.

29000 block of Albion Ridge Road, 31000 block of Albion Ridge Road, and 1000 block of Hoe Road, all in Albion)

On June 9, COMMET members served a search warrant at the listed properties with the assistance of personnel from the Mendocino Major Crimes Task Force, the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (wardens and environmental scientists), the California Department of Food & Agriculture, and Mendocino County Code Enforcement.

COMMET was assisted by personnel from the Sheriff's Office Detective Unit and the Mendocino Major Crimes Task Force.

COMMET contacted an adult male who was inside a marijuana drying room which was not a county-permitted structure.

COMMET personnel eradicated 2,339 growing marijuana plants.

24400 block of Biggar Lane in Covelo: On June 7, COMMET members responded to a reported illegal trespassing marijuana growing operation on tribal

lands which had been reported by the Round Valley Tribe and Mendocino County Code Enforcement.

COMMET was assisted by personnel from the Sheriff's Office Detective Unit and the Mendocino Major Crimes Task Force.

There were four male subjects standing near a section of several marijuana growing structures (hoop houses) who fled on foot upon law enforcement personnel's arrival. These subjects were not apprehended as a result.

Investigators noticed several acres of the tribal land that had been clear cut of trees, and a protective sweep of immediate area showed the presence of several firearms.

Investigators obtained a search warrant for the property based upon their observations which was subsequently served on the same day.

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24400 block of Biggar Lane in Covelo: On June 7, COMMET members responded to a reported illegal trespassing marijuana growing operation on tribal



Above, from left: Lauren Daugherty and her partner are here for the first time with their Hill Hippy Pottery, many of which sport Grateful Dead designs. This sign reflects the philosophy and hopes of many of the vendors. Batul makes her Masso Medicina ("Deer Medicine") inspired by her Yoeme (Yaqui) ancestry. At right: Shoppers enjoyed the warm, post-rain weather. Below: Gloria Gonzalez Campise of People's Midwifery and Ana Victoria Salcido-Cobbe of La Tierra Buena Collective shared a booth.



At left: Bahia Beads are created by Mona Burrell, inspired by the African art of Bahia, Brazil.



Below, left: Ana Hope works the Mendocino Herb Guild Booth. Below, right: Alwyn L'hoir of Blue Moon offered perfumes and Tarot readings.

Photos by Mathew Caine



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Latin Peppers DJ Rundat
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The rest of Drought From Page 1

Supervisor Haschak reported that Brooktrails water storage currently "is right below full capacity in Lake Emily, just 5 inches below the top, which is good news." As far as the Willits district, he reported: "They're at 84 percent of their water storage capacity, so they think they'll be alright throughout the season."

Also, Haschak said: "In Laytonville Jim Shields [manager of the Laytonville water district and editor of the Mendocino County Observer] gave a lengthy report with lots of good information. He said the aquifer has filled up after only half the amount of normal rainfall, they're using water conservation plans of 10 percent reductions right now, they might have to go to 20 percent."

As far as Covelo, Supervisor Haschak said he hadn't been able to get official information, but he'd had anecdotal reports that "lots of wells are going dry" in the Covelo area.

Haschak and First District Supervisor Glenn McGourty are the two members of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors ad hoc committee dubbed the Countywide Drought Task Force.

The June 10 meeting held via Zoom "is a special event we're having to kick off" the task force, Supervisor McGourty said, promising a "thumbnail sketch" of water availability conditions in different areas around the county.

One of the participants giving a report about their local water capacity was Christina Aranguren, a member of the Mendocino City Community Services District board. "Mendocino is very unique from a water supply and conservation planning perspective," she said. "Nearly everyone here has a very strong water conservation understanding and ethic."

Aranguren reported that on May 3 the MCCSD board declared a Stage 4 water emergency. "That's our most dire stage," Aranguren said. "It's requiring mandatory conservation measures. We rely on groundwater here. We have about 420 independently owned wells; some of these are very old and hand-dug, and are not reliable. We have many wells already going dry. It's going to be a very critical year for us."

She also pointed out that Mendocino's water needs did not come from its 1,000 residents alone: "We have about 2,000 daily visitors, 160 businesses, 25 or so lodging establishments, two state parks nearby, and a school district.... We have to be very serious.... We're currently looking at a lot of options."

Her colleague at the MCCSD board, president Harold Hauck, explained that,

due to the Stage 4 emergency, residents of Mendocino village are already operating under a mandatory 40 percent reduction in their normal allotment.

"Every resident in the community has a water limit that was established for that particular home, and it's based on the number of bedrooms," Hauck said. "A 2 bedroom home is allocated in normal times 200 gallons a day; as a result of Stage 4 resolution that the board passed, that allocation has been reduced by 40 percent."

Both Aranguren and Hauck also talked about how Mendocino businesses, lodging places, and residents are trucking in significant amounts of water. Much of that water comes from Fort Bragg, Hauck noted, which may have its own shortages to deal with.

John Smith, Public Works director for the City of Fort Bragg, detailed his city's efforts to find more water capacity, which include a potential desalination plant, looking into the idea of trucking water from Willits via Ukiah, and checking more than 1,000 existing wells.

"We looked at over 1,000 wells in the area and haven't found anything that would really produce a good source for us," Smith said. "Willits has a pretty good production well," he said, but "the idea of using 57 trucks a day for 200,000 gallons of water just doesn't make sense."

Another topic of discussion at the ad hoc meeting was the board of supervisors' recent decision to revive a standalone countywide water agenda. Supervisor McGourty introduced Josh Metz of the Regional Government Services Joint Powers Authority. Metz is also serving as the project manager for the revived countywide water agency, which "we're dusting off and starting to use again," McGourty said. "Josh is tasked with a number of things, and one of them is going to be to manage our drought response."

Metz began his comments by giving a shout-out to those watching online: "I'm reading 43 attendees on the list, and I'm sorry that others can't see how many attendees there are, and it'll just keep growing. I think it speaks to the importance of the issue."

In short form, Metz suggested the role of the drought ad hoc committee would be: "working to coalesce information, increase connections with regional, state and federal and state agencies, and hope to bring more of a focus on the Mendocino County area and funds to support projects in the county."

Also, he said, the drought ad hoc would "more generally serve as an

information hub for the county" as well as "building out online resources."

He also suggested the committee could look at "supply alternatives connecting communities such as Ukiah and Redwood Valley, and the communities on the coast – all those subjects would be the purview of this committee as I understand it."

The ad hoc would also "be a resource for the board of supervisors to help with their policy decisions, and a single point of contact as far as pursuing state and federal funding."

Joe Scriven of the Mendocino County Resources Conservation District told Zoom participants he was maintaining a list of potentially grant-funded water projects. He expects the list to "be a tool the Drought Task Force can use to put money on the ground when it is available."

Right now, Scriven said, they had a list of about 30 projects, "ranging in cost from \$10,000 to \$7 million. That's only 30 projects, and we probably have another 300 in the county that need to be identified."

He urged water purveyors and water customers in the county to email him at drought@MCRCD.org for more information or to get a "template" of the information needed for the list. "If there's projects that can improve your water conservation, your water efficiency, your water security for your community, that's really what we're looking at."

Part of what the task force will do, he said "is to gather the information of what the needs are in the county, from all corners of our county, and all communities involved.... Because we expect grant funds will be made available.... The first step is getting the project on the list."

"I highly suggest we think about needs for emergencies we're bound to face in the coming months," Supervisor McGourty told meeting participants. "We need to anticipate the worst of circumstances, think outside the box for solutions, and get going and detailing what we need specifically, in terms of planning, community messaging, equipment and infrastructure, and water supplies."

"We need to be ready to get in front of the line for state assistance," he continued, "as well as examining how we cover gaps through our resources if necessary. That's why it's so important we're talking now, because we'll have to be really, really proactive, if we're going to deal with the crisis in front of us."

To watch the entire Mendocino Countywide Drought Task Force meeting, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57ChmlJDUUI>

The rest of Beyond From Page 1

loads/2021/06/Beyond-the-Blueprint-Fact-Sheet.pdf

The governor is also continuing the wind-down of executive actions put in place since March 2020 to help facilitate a coordinated response to the pandemic and ensure the state could quickly and efficiently respond to the impacts of the pandemic. A subset of provisions that facilitate the ongoing recovery – such as the provision allowing pharmacy technicians to administer vaccinations as the state continues to vaccinate millions of eligible Californians every week – will remain in place.

"California is turning the page on this pandemic, thanks to swift action by the state and the work of Californians who followed public health guidelines and got vaccinated to protect themselves and their communities," said Governor Newsom. "With nearly 40 million vaccines administered and among the lowest case rates in the nation, we are lifting the orders that impact Californians on a day-to-day basis while remaining vigilant to protect public health and safety as the pandemic persists."

The state's decisive and early action through the Stay-at-Home Order directing Californians to limit their interactions with people from other households, and the Blueprint criteria guiding the tightening and loosening of allowable activities based on the level of community transmission, helped slow the spread of the virus, saving lives and protecting the state's health care delivery system from being overwhelmed.

With nearly 40 million vaccines administered and among the lowest case rates in the country, California is entering a new phase, lifting these restrictions to fully reopen on June 15.

The Governor's Office Friday established a timeline and process to continue winding down the various provisions of the 58 COVID-related executive orders, which suspended statutes and regulations to help the state and businesses continue operations during the pandemic.

To ensure that impacted individuals and entities have time to prepare for the changes, the provisions will sunset in phases, beginning later this month, in July, and in September. For example, the suspension of certain licensing requirements for manufacturers to produce hand sanitizer will end on June 30, as shortages are no longer a concern. By the end of September, nearly 90 percent of the executive actions taken since March 2020 will have been lifted.

Also on June 11, the California Department of Public Health released a new state public health officer order that goes into effect on June 15. Read the full order here: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Order-of-the-State-Public-Health-Officer-Beyond-Blueprint.aspx>

The order replaces the previous pandemic public health orders with limited requirements related to face coverings and mega events, as well as settings with children and youth pending an expected update later this month to the K-12 school guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The action supports the full and safe reopening of the state, while maintaining focused public health requirements that address the risk posed by variants as some regions across the nation and world continue to experience high levels of transmission.

A copy of the order terminating the Stay-at-Home Order and the Blueprint for a Safer Economy can be found here: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/6.11.21-EO-N-07-21-signed.pdf>

A copy of the order rolling back additional pandemic order provisions can be found here: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/6.11.21-EO-N-08-21-signed.pdf>

The rest of Shanachie From Page 3

Swanton has a lot of knowledge about beer, the different processes, and likes to talk about it. "But if you really want to know," he said, "talk to Troy Terrill [at Draft Punk in Laytonville] and if you really, really want to know, talk to Jacob [Foley, the brew master and owner of Northspur Brewing Company on Main Street in Willits]."

Even though the Pub has a lot of new styles of beer, there's no threat to those who love IPAs. There are still taps dedicated to the hoppy drafts. Swanton is also committing a tap each to German and Belgian beers perfectly crafted in their respective countries. He explained that the differences between the two is from the types of yeast used, and the bottom line is the taste. "Belgian is very floral and uses a unique yeast, while German style is more like a Pilsner with different hops and yeast – more malty."

They have sours, one or two on tap and others bottled; Kombuchas; Pilsners; Lagers; a true dark beer; ciders, at least two, sometimes three; and, of course, IPAs. "It just depends upon how the whole line-up rotates out," Swanton explained. "It's a little bit tricky to get that line-up to work smoothly. I've got a small refrigeration unit, so it's challenging. But I'm dedicated to make it happen."

Swanton's passion around brews and offering a wide and interesting variety to his community again shows when he travels as far as Lake Tahoe and Santa Cruz. He and Troy Terrill at Punk Draft sometimes collaborate and pick up kegs for one another when one is on a beer run.

Shanachie has always allowed food in the Pub since the liquor license allows people to eat "finger food." You can bring your own or take advantage of the convenience of ordering from Flying Dog Pizza, owned by Swanton. Their creatively crafted thin-crust wood-fired pizzas are right across the street, delicious and very convenient. One can order and pay for pizza at the Pub and it will be delivered to you in about 20 minutes.

Last words on the uniqueness of the beer offerings at the Pub: Currently, it's the only place north of San Francisco where you can get micro brews from Discretion Brewery in Soquel, Santa Cruz Mountain Brewing Company, and East Cliff Brewing Company also in Santa Cruz.

Whether you choose drink offerings local in the North Coast sense or shipped in from other countries, Shanachie Pub has something to tickle your drink fancies and those of your family and friends as well.

Keep abreast of Shanachie's offerings, including music, which will be added soon, on their Facebook page or sign up at the Pub to be on their email list.

The rest of Makers From Page 14

and perfecting her art for several years and has just begun to offer it to the public. She also had pieces with dynamic moths in artistic settings. "They were found, not raised. We're fortunate enough to live in the middle of the woods where they are attracted to our greenhouses. They take their time to die peacefully of natural causes. We get to repurpose them and give them new life."

Annie Waters of Emerald City Museum offered short classes in cannabis medicinals. "Today, I am showing people the very simple basics of using raw cannabis so you don't get high, for sleeping in pain. I will explain what the cannabinoid acids are in the raw plant. CBD-A and THC-A and many other cannabinoids found in the raw fresh plant. You can juice it. You can put it in alcohol or oils to preserve it, thus creating extracts to help yourself with that medicine. You can make your own from just a little bit of trim."

Kathy Zimmerman, a skillful photographer, showed a colorful collection of shots of international doors and rented vehicles. She shared a space with Ukiah Succology, who brought an extensive collection of water-efficient succulents and air plants.

Batul, a Yaqui native, offered a selection of herbal medicines from her company, Masso Medicina, a name meaning "Deer Medicine."

"My medicine is flower medicine for ancestral, generational, and person pain," she explained. "This is all medicine for difficult emotions. Flower essences for anxiety, for sadness, for resentment, for ego, for shame. I also have bath salts. I have

Agua Florida, which is a spray to help move stuck energies and emotions."

Transform Jackson Demonstration State Forest, a group dedicated to informing the public about detrimental logging practices in the forest, had a booth to explain their concerns, among which is the use of 620,000 gallons of water by the loggers.

Jamie Chevalier of Quail Seeds brought a selection of her over 400 seed varieties. She explained that her seeds are tested for both germination and ability to grow in the local climates. She also offers collections of flower seeds to attract bees and beneficial insects, perennials, and easy herbs.

Close to home, Murrish Medicinals of Brooktrails brought a selection of "spice and herbs, photos, bath salts, bath scrubs, tea blends, and locally harvested St. John's Wort" which she soaks for two years.

In addition to the aforementioned vendors, Farmers Market stalwart Richard Jeske, along with friends, provided musical accompaniment to the market.

Trillium Alchemy, Anna Lee Art, People's Midwifery, Everyday Alchemy, Bahia Beads, Divora Stern, Blue Moon Perfume, Midnight Moon Apothecary, Medicinal Allies, Aurospore Textiles, Trillium Herb Company, Root Girl Herbs, East Hill House Herbs, KShayne Farmacy, and Circle of Stones were also in attendance.

Inquiries concerning vending at the next market: info@MendocinoHerbGuild.com

The rest of Procession From Page 10

neighborhoods, past the schools most of the students had attended on their way up to Willits High School, Brookside Elementary (K-2), Blosser Lane Elementary (3-5), and Baechtel Grove Middle School (6-8).

Later in the evening, the festivities culminated with the annual Sober Grad Party at the Agriculture Farm behind the high school. It was the perfect end to a unique and difficult school year.

"Considering all the challenges, the school year went pretty well," stated Marian Talitha Lohne, assistant principal, whose own son Skylar Arnold was amongst the graduates. "Almost everyone made progress. The teachers learned a whole new way of teaching through the use of the Canvas online platform. We have everything in place to catch the students up that did fall behind in the coming three years. We're all looking forward to everything being back to full-time on campus, in person next year to begin re-establishing our relationships and get back to normal."

"We had students in person towards the end of the school year, but there were a little less than a third of our students who came back on campus because we had a lot of seniors that graduated early. Other students were already set in their routines. A lot of the students took the opportunity to get jobs and work that around their schedule, because they were either just going in the morning or in the afternoon. By the time the end of the year came around and we could be back in person, they didn't want to switch their schedule up. Some of the parents were still reluctant to allow their kids to be around others."

"I think that one of the main takeaways from the year is how quickly our staff district-wide advanced with these technologies for education," Lohne continued. "I think that that is something we will use moving forward to integrate more into the in-person educational experience. I think the other big takeaway is the importance of relationships with the students. When we come back, I think we will have stronger relationships with the students and families."



At left: The National Anthem Singing Contest will take place on Sunday, June 20, starting at noon at the Willits Frontier Days Rodeo grounds. Above: The Horse Show also takes place on Sunday, June 20, but starts early, at 8 am in the arena. Above, right: Sweetheart Judging will also be held this weekend. Below: The first event to kick off Willits Frontier Days, the Hometown Celebration, is this Friday, June 18 from 5 to 9 pm. All of these events are free to attend.

Photos by
Maureen
Jennison

Willits Frontier Days 2021

Festivities start Friday with Hometown Celebration and run through July 4

Even though the school year just concluded, the Fourth of July is just around the corner, and the annual Willits Frontier Days events are ready to kick it into high gear.

Events start this Friday with the Hometown Celebration in downtown Willits from 5 to 9 pm; Saturday the Sweetheart Judging will start; and

Sunday will feature the Horse Show at 8 am and the National Anthem Singing Contest at noon.

Next week will host the Truck Pulls, the first Street Dance, and Crowning of the Sweetheart.

Check www.WillitsFrontierDays.com for complete schedule and info.

– Maureen Jennison



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